

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
June 25, 2008; 4:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers**

**PRESENT**

Trena Carter  
Greg Lewis  
John Stroh  
Pam Vincent

**ABSENT**

Akua B. Agyei  
Ian Kohen  
Tony McClendon  
Gil Palmer  
Rosalind Pegram  
John Roberts  
Jason Staley  
Shiva Rallapalli

**Unofficial Meeting – No Quorum**

**VISITORS PRESENT:**

Chaley Jackson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith and Secretary, Lula Young.

**OPEN FORUM - COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

Director Tinsley advised Commissioners that staff had received a request for funding had been received from a college student, Chaley Jackson, who was then invited by staff to personally present her funding request to Commissioners and provide them with the opportunity to meet her and receive additional information about her funding request and long term goals. After receiving Commissioner agreement to hear the funding request, Director Tinsley introduced Chaley Jackson, the daughter of Cheryl Jackson, a participant in the Commission's Oral history video and former community advocate.

Commissioners acknowledged that although no decision could be made due to the lack of a quorum, they took advantage of the opportunity to obtain additional information from Chaley to share and discuss with the other Commissioners before making a decision.

Chaley informed Commissioners that her funding request was to support her education by assisting her in completing the final course requirement for her degree in International and African-American Diaspora Studies. She went on to inform Commissioners that the study abroad immersion course would meet the final credit hour requirements for her to earn her Bachelor's degree.

Commissioners asked Chaley for the total amount she needed to participate in the program and the breakdown of the associated costs. Chaley informed Commissioners that she needed a total amount of \$3,500.00 of which \$1,500 was for her flight.

Chaley went on to provide a description of the program she was participating in and advised Commissioners that students would stay with a Spanish family in pairs and take their courses at the University of Monaco. As part of the immersion program, students would have two educational trips in addition to completing all course requirements while in Spain.

Commissioners thanked Chaley and advised her that she would later be notified of a decision after discussion with all Commissioners concluded.

Discussion ensued. After receiving a summary of other student activities financially supported in the past by the Commissioners, those present agreed to have their positions summarized and sent out by the Director to all Commissioners to begin the discussion and inform Chaley of a decision by July 1, 2008.

### **OPEN FORUM:**

Commissioner Carter inquired if the office had been impacted by the recent flooding disaster. Director Tinsley responded and advised that beyond one staff member being personally affected, there was not a direct impact for the office. She went on to report that the resulting effect was tertiary, requiring her participation at the community meetings held by the Mayor. The community meetings were attended by all department heads of city offices. Director Tinsley advised that her role was to process initial complaint intakes at the meetings and provided technical assistance for flood victims. Director Tinsley complimented Red Cross volunteers that made sensitive inquiries regarding a bi-racial couple and a lesbian couple whom they believed had been discriminated against while attempting to secure housing. Other situations she addressed included potential Civil Rights violations, lost employment with a disability connection and victims losing their homes and being subjected price gouging on rent.

**Following this discussion, the meeting was adjourned**